



Southern Plains Farm Labor Report

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Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and Texas Department of Agriculture

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This report contains the results from the April 2020 Farm Labor Survey collected during the last two weeks of April. Respondents were asked the number of hired workers, hours worked and wages for the January and April 2020 reference weeks. Estimates for the Southern Plains region were made possible by data provided by respondents in Oklahoma and Texas. Our thanks to all who responded to the April 2020 Farm Labor Survey.

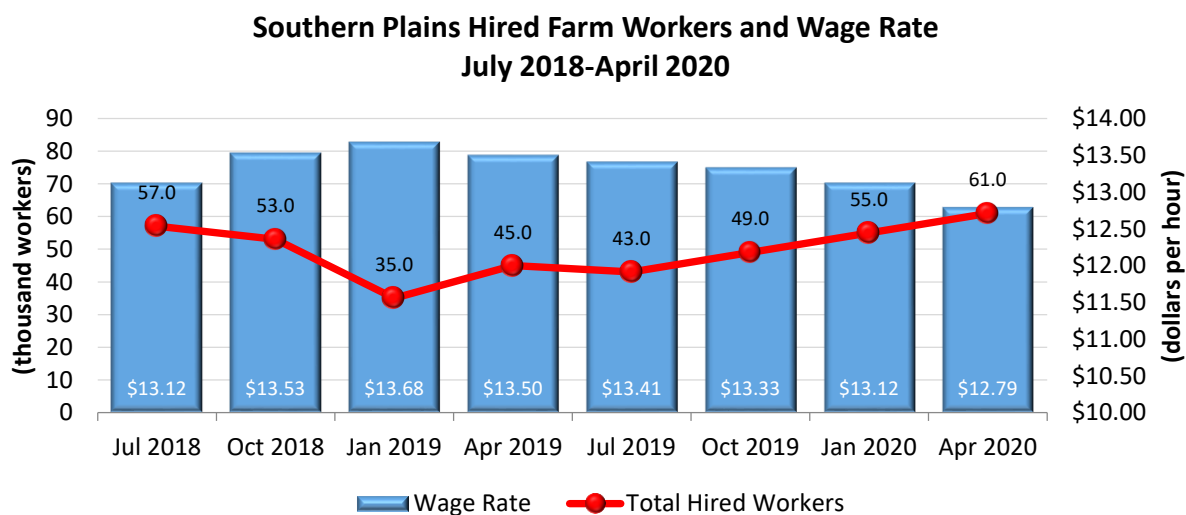
Southern Plains Highlights: There were 55,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of January 12-18, 2020, up 57 percent from the January 2019 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 61,000 for the week of April 12-18, 2020, up 36 percent from the April 2019 reference week.

Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the January 2020 reference week averaged \$13.12 per hour, down 4 percent from a year earlier. For the April 2020 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$12.79, 5 percent below the April 2019 wage and down 3 percent from January 2020.

U.S. Highlights: There were 568,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 12-18, 2020, up 14 percent from the January 2019 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 688,000 for the reference week of April 12-18, 2020, up 9 percent from April 2019.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$15.28 per hour during the January 2020 reference week, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 40.2 for hired workers during the reference week, up 2 percent from January 2019.

During the April 2020 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$15.07 per hour, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 40.3 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from April 2019.



Hired Workers and Wage Rates, Southern Plains Region (Oklahoma and Texas)
[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Farm employment	January 6-12, 2019	April 7-13, 2019	July 7-13, 2019	October 6-12, 2019	January 12-18, 2020	April 12-18, 2020
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	29	32	35	36	47	51
149 days or less	6	13	8	13	8	10
Total	35	45	43	49	55	61
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	39.2	38.8	40.6	40.2	39.1	39.2
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	12.55	12.60	12.80	12.70	12.65	12.35
Field	11.71	12.01	12.67	12.61	12.31	11.91
Livestock	13.18	13.05	12.93	12.76	12.93	12.73
All hired workers	13.68	13.50	13.41	13.33	13.12	12.79

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

Hired Workers and Wage Rates, United States
[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Farm employment	January 6-12, 2019	April 7-13, 2019	July 7-13, 2019	October 6-12, 2019	January 12-18, 2020	April 12-18, 2020
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	425	510	594	603	495	578
149 days or less	74	119	208	206	73	110
Total	499	629	802	809	568	688
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers	39.3	40.7	41.7	42.5	40.2	40.3
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	13.78	13.73	14.08	14.21	14.20	14.16
Field	13.77	13.80	14.19	14.38	14.18	14.19
Livestock	13.80	13.61	13.79	13.77	14.22	14.10
All hired workers	14.96	14.71	14.91	15.02	15.28	15.07

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

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